



## **ADJC RECIDIVISM**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **April 2006**

The Research and Development (R&D) Division annually updates and recalculates ADJC recidivism rates. Recidivism has been defined as return to custody with ADJC or the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC). R&D has calculated recidivism rates for 12 or more months for eight release cohorts (1997-2004). The most recent cohort tracked by R&D included juveniles released from ADJC Safe Schools in 2004. This Executive Summary addresses four recent recidivism findings.

First, ADJC had a 12 month recidivism rate of 34% for juveniles released during 2004. That rate exceeded the departmental average by 5%. The vast majority (88%) of the recidivists were parole violators who returned for either a new offense or a technical violation. This is evidence of the ADJC practice of holding juveniles accountable for their behavior while in the community.

Second, ADJC had a 24 month recidivism rate of 42% for juveniles released during 2003. That rate exceeded the departmental average by only 1%.

ADJC had a 36 month recidivism rate of 48% for juveniles released in 2002, and that rate exceeded the departmental average by only 1%. Thirty-six months is the most appropriate recidivism follow-up period to use, because 36 months provides the most accurate picture of juvenile recidivism. R&D found that 80% of all ADJC recidivism occurs within 36 months.

Finally, ADJC's 24 and 36 month ADJC recidivism rates compare favorably to other jurisdictions who measure recidivism in a similar way (see Table 1). The comparison of juvenile recidivism rates is presented for general information purposes. A recent Virginia report cautions "it is probably unwise and inadvisable to look at the juvenile recidivism rate for one state and compare it to the rate in another state – the populations, juvenile justice statutes, and measurement needs of each state are too different."

Table 1

<b>Recidivism (Return to Custody) by Length of Follow Up and Jurisdiction<sup>1</sup></b>						
	<b>Number of Months</b>					
	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Arizona<sup>2</sup></b>	34%	-	42%	-	48%	-
<b>Florida<sup>3</sup></b>	28%	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Louisiana<sup>4</sup></b>	-	23%	-	32%	-	38%
<b>Maryland<sup>5</sup></b>	20%	-	44%	-	-	-
<b>Ohio<sup>6</sup></b>	30%	-	43%	-	50%	-
<b>Texas<sup>7</sup></b>	27%	-	-	-	48%	-
<b>Virginia<sup>8</sup></b>	21%	-	39%	-	54%	-
<b>Wisconsin<sup>9</sup></b>	-	-	25%	-	-	-

## Notes

1. Rates shown are for the most recent releases from secure care.
2. Any return to ADJC as a result of a new offense or a parole violation, or sentenced to the Department of Corrections.
3. Any return to the Department of Juvenile Justice, or sentence to adult probation or prison.
4. Readjudicated and placed in custody of Office of Youth Development (OYD) or sentenced by adult court and sentenced to either supervision or custody of adult corrections. In the referenced report, Louisiana tracked all juveniles discharged from any program from 1998-2005 through January 6, 2006, and the follow-up periods indicated represent the average time spent in the community for specific release cohorts.
5. Either recommitted to a juvenile residential placement or incarcerated as an adult.
6. Any return to Ohio Department of Youth Services because of a new felony offense or parole revocation or sentenced to the adult prison system.
7. Reincarceration for any offense.
8. Reincarceration to a juvenile correctional center, to the (adult) Department of Corrections or a local jail. The rates for 12 and 24 month follow-up periods are for juveniles released in FY03. The rate for the 36 month follow-up period is for juveniles released in FY02.
9. Return to a Wisconsin juvenile correctional institution for a new offense, or a Wisconsin adult prison for a new criminal offense or probation violation.

Please contact Dr. Gopal Chengalath ([gchenglath@azdjic.gov](mailto:gchenglath@azdjic.gov) or 602-364-0695) or Dr. John Vivian ([jvivian@azdjic.gov](mailto:jvivian@azdjic.gov) or 602-542-2274) of R&D if you would like more information on recidivism.